

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228304 TOSEC 270154

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, HEADED "KISSINGER'S TOUGH TASK".

2. AS LONE RANGER HENRY KISSINGER RIDES OUT ONCE MORE IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER IN FAR PLACES, THERE SEEMS AGREEMENT ON ONLY ONE POINT--THAT HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN AFRICA ARE RAZOR-THIN, BUT THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS VITAL ENOUGH TO WARRENT A TRY.

3. LOOKED AT CANDIDLY, TWO OF THE THREE MAJOR AREAS OF BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION DO NOT OFFER MUCH HOPE FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT. ON RHODESIA, FOR EXAMPLE, MUCH DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE SOUTH AFRICA'S PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER IS WILLING TO EXERT ON RHODESIAN WHITE LEADER IAN SMITH. AND AT TIMES, THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOUNDS AS IF HE WILL NOT GO MUCH BEYOND VERBALLY URGING SMITH TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH RHODESIA'S BLACK NATIONALISTS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT INSTITUTED SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA, WHICH

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 228304 TOSEC 270154

WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE, HEAVY IMPACT ON THAT COUNTRY.

4. MR. SMITH MEANWHILE HAS SHOWN LITTLE WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ADVICE FROM MR. VORSTER, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN, FRESH FROM HIS ZURICH TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER, MAY TURN ON MORE PRESSURE DURING HIS SCHEDULED TALKS WITH THE RHODESIAN IN PRETORIA. ALL THREE WHITE MEN ARE AWARE OF THE LACK OF UNITY AMONG RHODESIA'S BLACK FACTIONS, WHICH MAKES PEACEFUL AGREEMENT MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, TEMPTS WHITE SUPREMACISTS TO FEEL THEY CAN CONTINUE TO DIVIDE AND RULE, AND CONVINCES SOME BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS THAT CONTINUING AND ESCALATING THE GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST RHODESIA IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE PROCEDURE.

5. SOUTH AFRICA, THE SECOND OF THE THREE AREAS, IS STILL OFF LIMITS AS FAR AS SERIOUS NEGOTIATION IS CONCERNED AT THIS STAGE. VORSTER HAS RESTATED HIS DEDICATION TO THE APARTHEID RACIAL POLICY SO DEPLORED BY BLACKS. FOR THE AMERICAN SECRETARY TO PROBE THIS SUBJECT, WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM VORSTER, THEREFORE, WOULD BE REGARDED AS INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AS BLACK WORK STOPPAGES AND UNREST CONTINUE IN THAT COUNTRY, KISSINGER, MAKING THE FIRST-EVER VISIT BY A CABINET-LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIAL, WILL HAVE TO TREAD CAREFULLY TO AVOID GIVING AN IMPRESSION OF AMERICAN ENDORSEMENT OF THE WHITE-MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES. BLACKS AS WELL AS WHITES WILL BE WATCHING (AND PERHAPS OVERINTERPRETING) HIS EVERY MOVE.

6. THIS LEAVES THE THIRD AREA, NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA) AS THE LIKELIEST PROSPECT AT THE MOMENT. NAMIBIA IS UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL, ALTHOUGH ITS STATUS IS DISPUTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. AT A RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, PLANS FOR A MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE BY 1978 WERE DRAWN UP WITH SOUTH AFRICAN CONCURRENCE, BUT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE, THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), OR PROVISION FOR UN-SUPERVISED ELECTIONS. THIS WOULD SEEM A FERTILE FIELD FOR DR. KISSINGER TO EXPLORE WITH BLACK AND WHITE LEADERS AT EACH STOP.

7. SOME AMERICANS--AND SOME AFRICANS AS WELL--CERTAINLY WILL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 228304 TOSEC 270154

HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS LATEST KISSINGER SAFARI, LIMITED THOUGH ITS SUCCESS MAY BE. BUT AT LEAST THERE NOW IS LITTLE DOUBT OF AMERICAN AWARENESS THAT AFRICA'S PROBLEMS NO LONGER CAN SAFELY BE IGNORED. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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